



JOHNSON  
BROTHERS  
GARDEN MARKET

## PLANTS FOR SHADE

### Light Shade

*Acer griseum* —paperbark maple  
*Acer palmatum* 'Katsura' —Japanese maple  
*Aesculus parviflora* —bottlebrush buckeye  
*Athyrium filix-femina* 'Frizelliae' —tattening fern  
*Athyrium* 'Ghost' —ghost fern  
*Campanula poscharskyana* 'Blue Waterfall' —Serbian bellflower  
*Cornus controversa* 'June Snow'  
—giant dogwood  
*Corylopsis spicata*  
—spike winterhazel  
*Gentiana asclepiadea* —willow gentian  
*Hamamelis xintermedia* 'Jelena'  
—hybrid witch hazel  
\**Hosta*  
*Hydrangea anomala* subsp. *petiolaris*  
—climbing hydrangea  
*Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Merritt's Supreme' (3b-9, 14-24)  
—mophead hydrangea  
*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Tardiva' (1-21)  
—panicle hydrangea  
*Leptinella squalida* 'Platt's Black'  
—brass buttons  
*Magnolia sieboldii* (4-9, 14-24)  
—Oyama magnolia  
*Omphalodes verna* (2-9, 14-21)  
—creeping forget-me-not  
*Pieris japonica* 'Sarabande' (2b-9, 14-17)  
—pieris, lily-of-the-valley shrub  
*Pieris japonica* 'White Cascade' (2b-9, 14-17)  
—pieris, lily-of-the-valley shrub  
*Primula* 'Guinevere' (1-24)  
—polyanthus primrose  
*Primula japonica* (2-6, 15-17)  
—candelabra primula  
*Pulmonaria* 'Benediction' (1-9, 14-17)  
—lungwort  
*Rhododendron* 'Blue Boy'  
—hybrid rhododendron  
*Rhododendron* 'Hachmann's Charmant'  
—hybrid rhododendron  
*Rhododendron schlippenbachii* (3-7, 14-17)  
—royal azalea  
*Sambucus nigra* f. *laciniata* (2-7, 14-17)  
—cutleaf black elder  
*Stachyurus praecox* (4-6, 14-17)  
—stachyurus  
*Stewartia pseudocamellia* (4-6, 14-17, 20, 21)  
—Japanese stewartia  
*Trillium grandiflorum* (1-6)

### Dappled Shade

*Acer circinatum* 'Monroe' (2b-6, 14-17)  
—cutleaf vine maple  
*Actaea racemosa* (syn. *Cimifuga racemosa*) (1-7, 17)  
—black snakeroot  
*Arisaema triphyllum* (1-6)  
—Jack-in-the-pulpit  
*Arisarum proboscideum*  
—mouse plant  
\**Diphylleia cymosa*  
—umbrella leaf  
*Disporopsis pernyi*  
—evergreen Solomon's seal  
*Fargesia murielae*  
—umbrella bamboo  
*Phyllostachys nigra*  
—black bamboo, blackstem bamboo  
*Polystichum munitum* (2-9, 14-24)  
—sword fern  
*Polystichum polyblepharum* (4-9, 14-24)  
—Japanese tassel fern  
*Pulmonaria longifolia* subsp. *cevennensis* (1-9, 14-17)  
—longleaf lungwort  
*Sequoia sempervirens* (4-9, 14-24)  
—coast redwood  
*Shibataea kumasasa*  
—zig-zag bamboo  
*Tsuga canadensis* 'Pendula' (2-7, 17)  
—Sargent's weeping hemlock

### Deep Shade

*Adiantum aleuticum* (1-7, 14-21)  
—western maidenhair fern  
*Asarum caudatum* (4-6, 14-24)  
—western wild ginger  
*Beesia deltophylla*  
—beesia  
*Blechnum spicant* (2b-7, 14-19, 24)  
—deer fern  
*Elaeagnus pungens* 'Maculata' (4-24)  
—golden elaeagnus  
*XFatshedera lizei* 'Annemieke' (4-10, 12-24)  
—golden variegated fatshedera  
*Fatsia japonica* (4-9, 14-24)  
—Japanese fatsia  
*Gymnocarpium disjunctum* (sold as *G. dryopteris*)  
—common oak fern  
*Osmanthus burkwoodii* (4-9, 14-17)  
—hybrid sweet olive

### Light Shade

Light shade offers conditions for the broadest range of plants to thrive. These areas receive about four to six hours of direct sunlight every day. This light intensity allows for many shade-tolerant plants to flower at their peak, including exceptional cultivars of woody plants such as witch hazel (*Hamamelis*), *Hydrangea*, mountain laurel (*Kalmia*), *Magnolia*, *Pieris*, *Rhododendron*, and *Stewartia*, and herbaceous perennials like barrenwort (*Epimedium*), *Helleborus*, *Primula*, and *Trillium*. The witch hazels, for instance, are cherished for their exquisitely fragrant, spidery flowers that appear during winter. One vigorous witch hazel selection, *H. xintermedia* 'Arnold Promise', has large, clear yellow flowers and reddish centers and is a particularly prolific bloomer.

### Open Shade

Open shade and light shade are often thought to be interchangeable designations, but there are distinct differences between them. An area of open shade is fully exposed to the sky but with little or no direct sunlight. This usually occurs when a structure or building blocks any sunlight, but there is no foliage canopy above to block the sun. This is one of the best locations to grow plants with golden foliage; their leaves remain richly colored, with no risk of burning from intense sunlight. Golden full moon maple (*Acer shirasawanum* 'Aureum') is a first-rate and highly sought-after small tree with golden foliage. In mid-spring, the buds open to reveal intense, bright lemon yellow leaves. This glowing display is dazzling during the typically gray days of spring. As the leaves mature, their color softens to chartreuse in early summer.

### Dappled Shade

Gardening under conifers is a way of life in the Northwest. One of the best woodland shade conditions is dappled light, where the ground plane receives about two to three hours of sunlight filtered through the branches of the canopy above. When you look up into the canopy, between one-quarter and one-third of the sky remains visible through the foliage. Although many woodland favorites, such as rhododendrons, grow well here, their flowering is reduced due to the limited amount of sunlight reaching them. Consequently, foliage and good design play a significant role in creating a beautiful woodland garden.

### Deep Shade

It is difficult to separate deep shade from the dry conditions that often accompany it. This type of shade is usually the result of an almost impenetrable overhead canopy of trees, permitting less than one-quarter of the sky to be visible; little or no direct sunlight reaches the ground. Such a dense canopy of trees will naturally have a dense root system that competes for any moisture in the soil. Few plants grow well in this situation, but there are several GPP recommendations that are tough enough to survive. Foliage rules here rather than flowers, so it is best to focus on plants with appealing leaves or a striking form.

Several native plants are well equipped to thrive in dry shade. Cascade Oregon grape (*Mahonia nervosa*) is a low, loose groundcover with pinnately compound, emerald-green leaves, the leaflets being spiny, coarse, and evergreen. Our western wild ginger (*Asarum caudatum*) is an understory plant with bold, heart-shaped leaves that are fully evergreen and release a spicy, ginger-and-citrus fragrance when crushed. Its European counterpart (*A. europaeum*) has distinctive, kidney-shaped leaves that are also evergreen and a glossy dark green. The flowers of both are distinctive; watch for them peeking out from among the leaves in late winter.